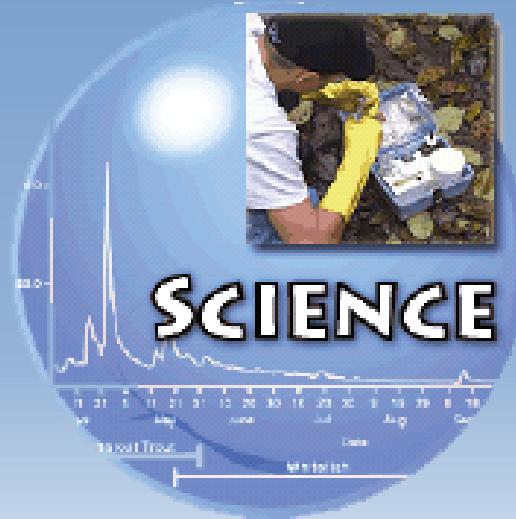


Marine-Derived Nutrients

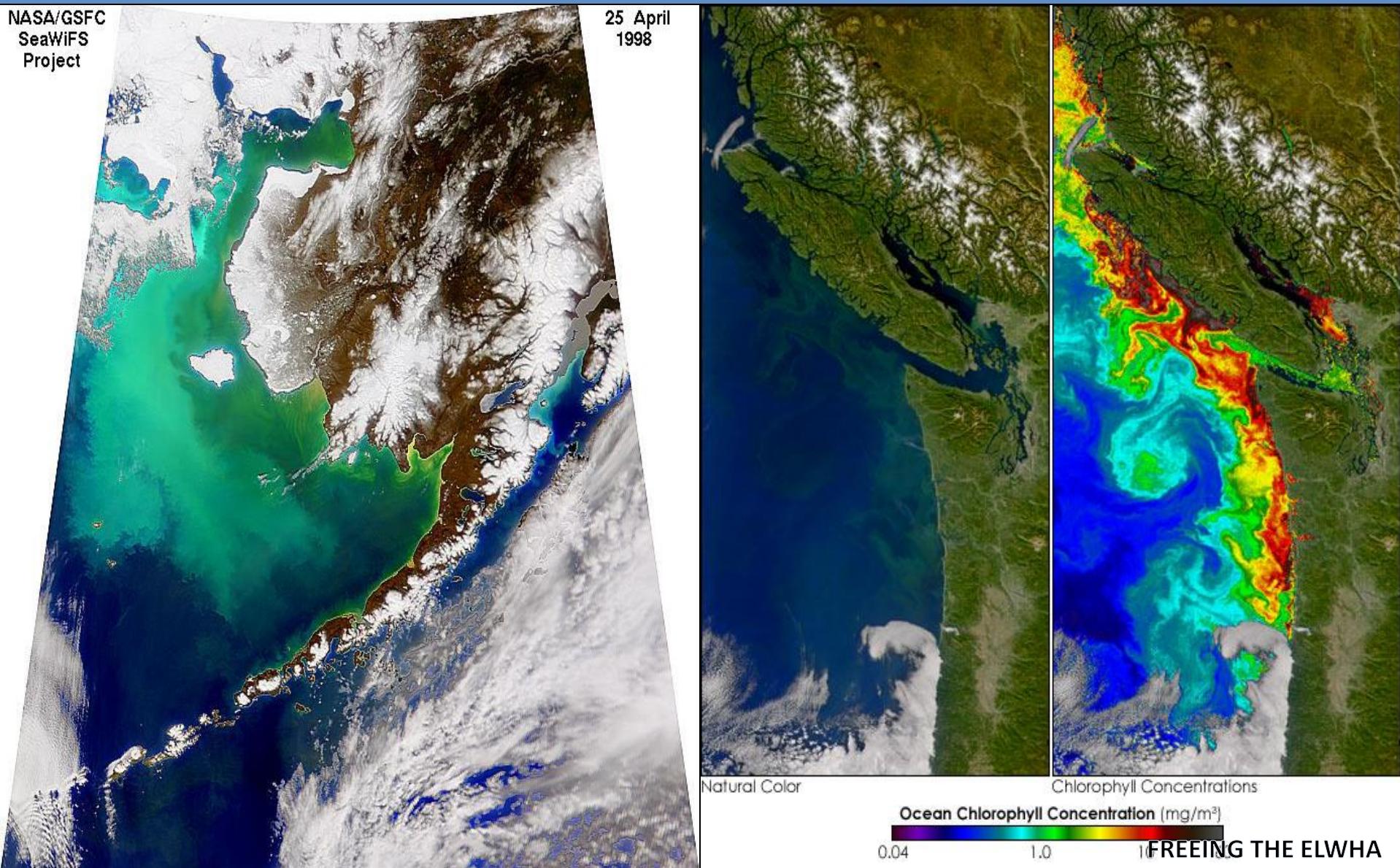
The Aquatic Food Web



Algal Blooms

The North Pacific Turns Green

NASA/GSFC
SeaWiFS
Project





The Marine Food Web

Seals feed on small fish and salmon



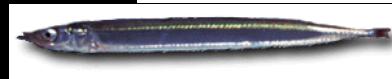
Orca feed on salmon and/or seals

Anchovies are common schooling fish



Adult Salmon feed on small fish

Juvenile salmon can be prey for adults



Small forage fish feed on plankton

Juvenile salmon feed on plankton

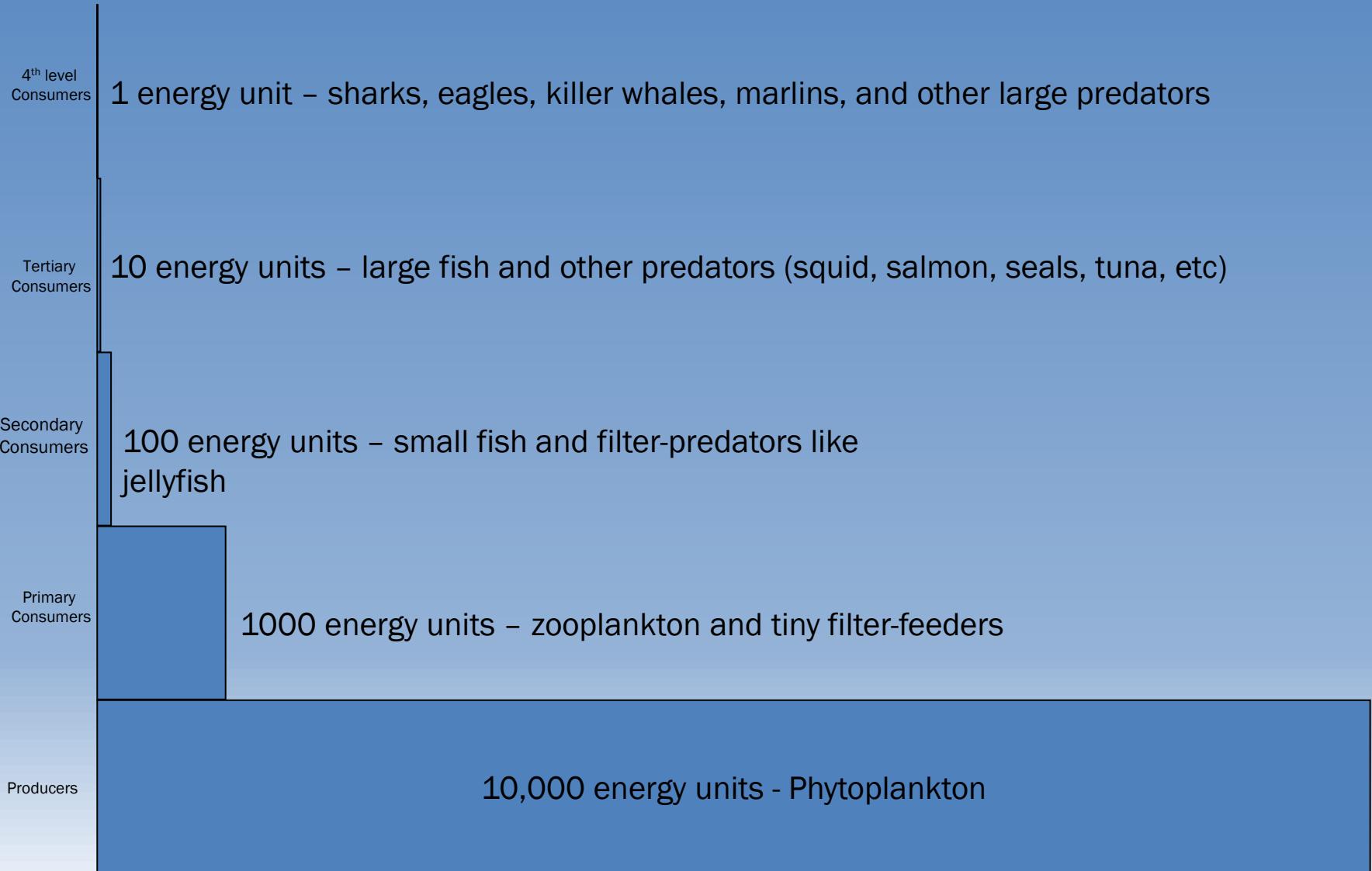


Zooplankton feed on algae and smaller plankton

Algae produce food from photosynthesis

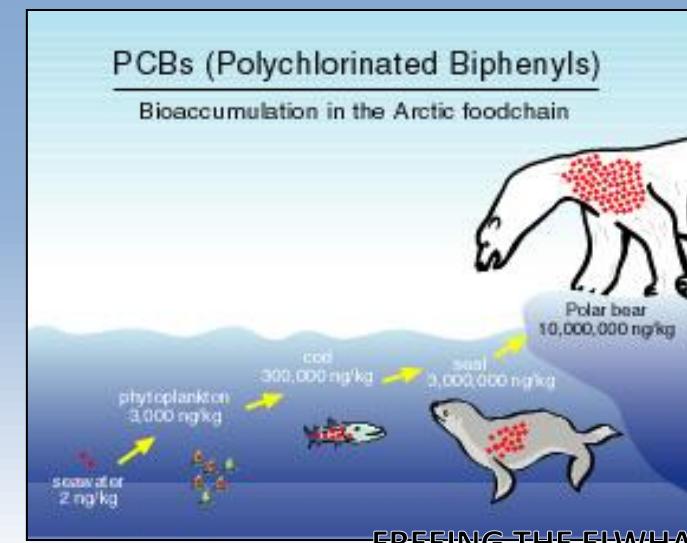
FREEING THE ELWHA

Trophic Levels

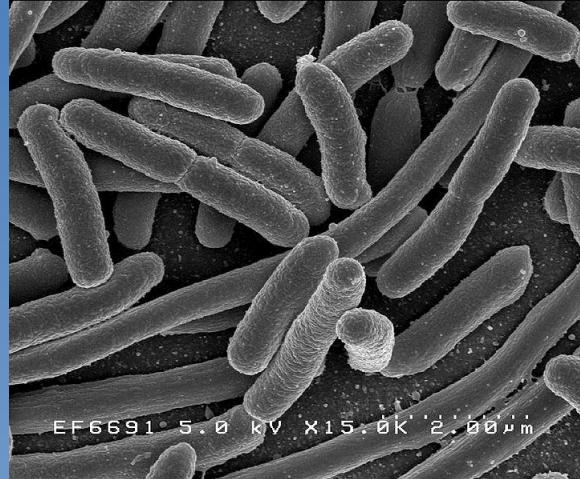


Biomagnification

4 th level Consumers	10,000 chemical units – sharks, eagles, killer whales, marlins, and other large predators
Tertiary Consumers	1000 chemical units – large fish and other predators (squid, salmon, seals, tuna, etc)
Secondary Consumers	100 chemical units – small fish and filter-predators like jellyfish
Primary Consumers	10 chemical units – zooplankton and tiny filter-feeders
Producers	1 unit – Phytoplankton and algae

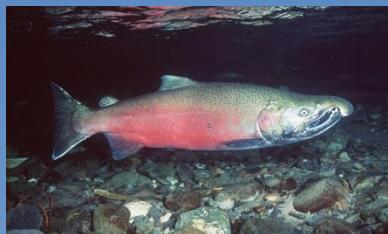


Decomposition of Salmon Carcasses



Movement of Marine-Derived Nutrients Across Generations

Adult salmon return from sea



Juvenile salmon head to sea



Juvenile salmon feed on aquatic insects



Aquatic insects feed on algae and bacteria



Salmon Carcass

Nutrients enter water



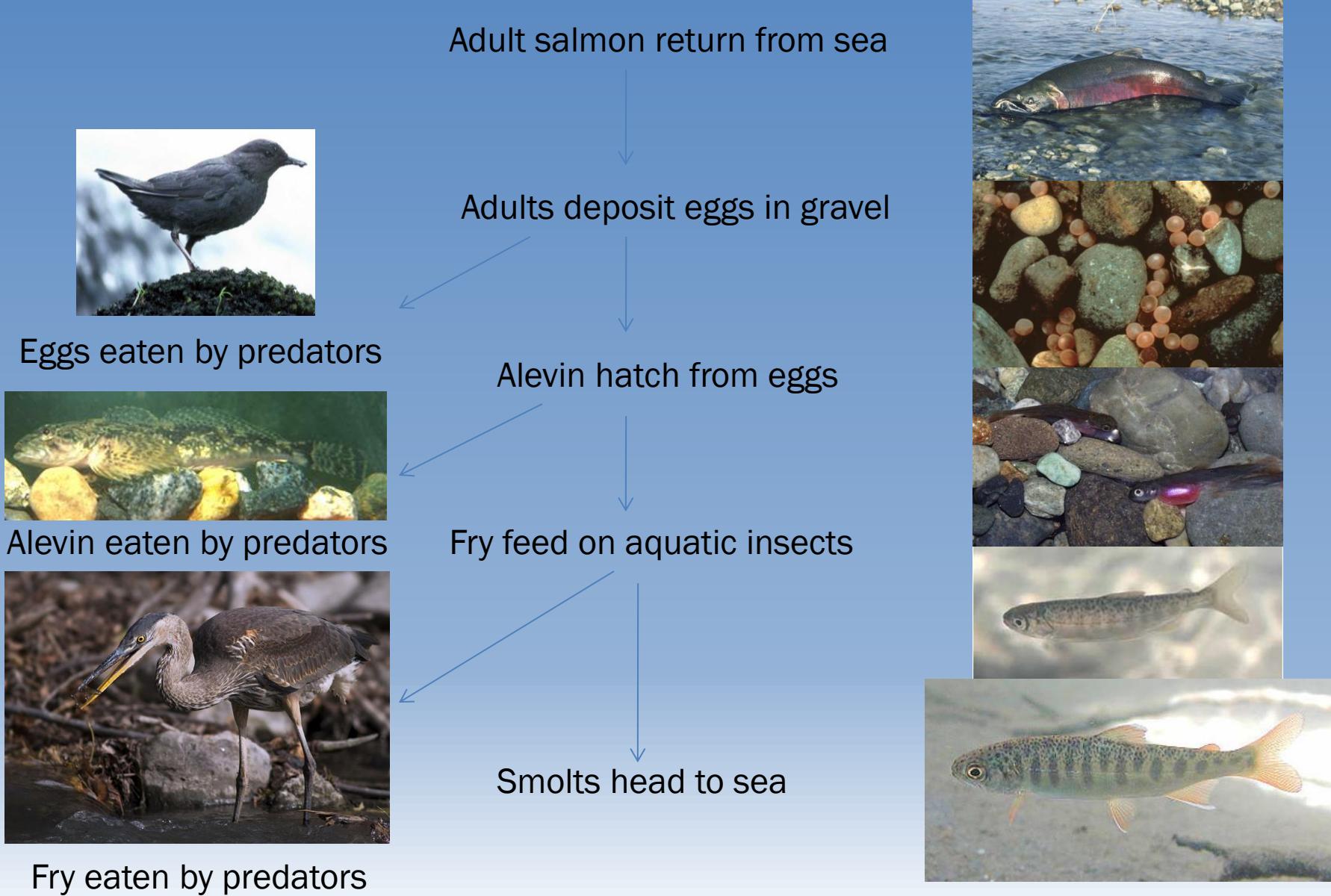
Nutrients used by algae and bacteria on rocks



It is estimated that up to 95% of the food consumed by a salmon fry may have originated from the salmon carcass.

FREEING THE ELWHA

Movement of Marine-Derived Nutrients in the Food Chain



This project was made possible in part by a grant from
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